

REMARKS

The Office Action of January 17, 2007, rejected the pending claims as being obvious in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,295,521, to DeMarcken et al. (hereinafter "DeMarcken") in combination with U.S. Patent No. 6,304,850, to Keller et al. (hereinafter "Keller").

As described in greater detail below, applicants have amended independent Claims 1, 13, and 25, and submit that in light of the amendments the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance.

Independent Claims 1, 13, and 25

Independent Claims 1, 13, and 25 have each been amended to recite that the threshold cost is "determined, at least in part, according to the travel time of said partial fare solutions." Support for this amendment is found, *inter alia*, on page 14, lines 24-27.

The Office Action pointed to Keller as disclosing a consumer inputting a target price and equated that to be the functional equivalent of a threshold cost. While applicants expressly traverse this assertion, *intra alia*, as it does not apply to eliminating partial fare solutions but to completed fare solutions, applicants have amended the claims and point out that Keller fails to disclose, teach, or suggest determining a threshold cost, at least in part, according to travel time. Moreover, as admitted in the Office Action, DeMarcken also fails to disclose, teach, or suggest eliminating partial fare solutions according to a threshold cost - and therefore fails to disclose, teach, or suggest eliminating partial fare solutions according to a "threshold cost determined, at least in part, according to the travel time of said partial fare solutions."

In view of this amendment to the independent claims, applicants submit that these claims, as well as their dependent claims, are in condition for allowance. Applicants request that the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejections be withdrawn, and the claims allowed.

Independent Claim 13

Independent Claim 13 has been amended to further recite the following:

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determining whether a predetermined number of complete fare solutions have been found, and if not:

increasing the threshold cost; and

repeating the above recited steps of determining, adding, and eliminating using the increased threshold cost.

Support for this amendment is found, *inter alia*, on page 17, lines 21-26.

Applicants submit that DeMarcken and Keller, alone and in combination, fail to teach or suggest determining whether a sufficient number of complete fare solutions have been found, and if not, increasing the threshold cost and repeating the steps to generate new complete fare solutions.

For the additional reasons cited above, applicants submit that Claim 13 and its dependent claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, applicants request that the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of these claims be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and reexamination of the application, and allowance of the claims at an early date, are solicited. If the Examiner has any questions or comments concerning the foregoing response, the Examiner is invited to contact the applicants' undersigned attorney at the number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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